



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:00 p.m. Work Session for discussion regarding the Manh Choh Mine Ore Transportation Impacts to Fairbanks, to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council via Zoom webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present:      Jerry Cleworth, Seat A  
   June Rogers, Seat B  
   Valerie Therrien, Seat C  
   Aaron Gibson, Seat D  
   Lonny Marney, Seat E

Absent:                                      *Vacant*, Seat F

Also Present:                              Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer  
   D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
   Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
   Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff  
   Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)  
   Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
   Scott Raygor, Fire Chief (remotely)  
   Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director  
   Robert Pristash, City Engineer

**Mr. Clark** apologized to the Council and the voters, for vacating his seat prematurely. He explained that he and his family had a great opportunity to purchase property outside of the City, and he is no longer qualified to serve on the Fairbanks City Council. He recognized the power that the citizens hold when they participate in City Council meetings, noting that it is Council members' responsibility to represent those values to the best of their ability.

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

### **FLAG SALUTATION**

**Mayor Matherly** led the Flag Salutation.

### **CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

Fire Chief Raygor introduced new Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Coccaro and new firefighter recruits. A badging ceremony was performed with family members assisting, and Chief Raygor administered oaths of office.

**Mayor Matherly** recognized Tim and Shelissa Thomas in a three-mayor Proclamation for Restore, Inc. The Proclamation declared August 22, 2022 as “Restore, Inc. Appreciation Day.”

### CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Casey Gillam, Explore Fairbanks Director of Communications – C. Gillam thanked Mr. Clark for his service to the City. He introduced the Explore Fairbanks Winter Guide, which would be available at the Morris Thompson Visitors Center, Fairbanks International Airport, Alaska Railroad, and online.

Steve Hovenden, Fairbanks – S. Hovenden spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5021; he added that he was not speaking against the mining industry but the about dangers of having hundreds of ore trucks passing through the City.

Deborah Ryan, Fairbanks – D. Ryan spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5021. She acknowledged the benefits the project would have for the community of Tetlin and asked that the Tetlin community work to keep the project in their community rather than having the ore transported. She spoke to the concern of the extra pollution from trucks.

Victor Buberger, Fairbanks – V. Buberger spoke about potholes and acknowledged the Public Works crew for their hard work repairing as many as possible. He asked that the City develop a plan to have potholes fixed in the spring so that drivers can enjoy a pothole-free summer. He also suggested that the City allow for volunteer firefighters, questioning the Union’s influence over the decisions made at the City.

John Miscovich, Fairbanks – J. Miscovich spoke against Resolution No. 5021, adding that he is a former employee of Kinross and knows about their impressive safety record. He added that Kinross is a large contributor to the local economy and employs hundreds of citizens within the community.

Jennifer Thompson, Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce – J. Thompson spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce against Resolution No. 5021. She added that Kinross had a good track record for responsible development and would provide positive impacts to the economy through their energy efficiency and environmental controls.

Ken Hall, Fairbanks – K. Hall spoke against Resolution No. 5021 and stated that the Council would be sending a message that it does not support community development. He stated that the extraction of minerals needed throughout the United States is important and that Kinross Fort Knox should be supported.

Mary Farrell, Fairbanks – M. Farrell spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5021, clarifying that Advocates for Safe Alaska Highways (ASAH) is not against mining. She expressed hope that an alternative routing solution could be found. She spoke to the dangers the ore trucking would create for residents and tourists having to deal with the multiple large trucks and to the potential for damage to roads and waterways.

Luke Hopkins, Fairbanks – L. Hopkins spoke to the growing air quality issue present in the Fairbanks community and questioned the impacts that the ore trucking traffic would have on the next set of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

Hearing no more requests for in person comment, individuals on Zoom were heard next.

Helenmarie Matesi, Fairbanks – H. Matesi spoke about Mary Kasak Hamilton, a woman who went missing in 2019 and whose family was recently informed that she had died that same year. She mentioned the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s (NAACP) “Seven Points of Safety” that had been presented to the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) and asked that the sad situation of the missing woman provide a moment of awareness to improve processes around investigations of missing and murdered persons.

Julie Smyth, Fairbanks – J. Smyth spoke about her mother, Mary Kasak Hamilton, who had gone missing in November of 2019. She stated that the family had been unable to file a missing persons report in Anchorage and recently found out that she had died in 2019. She added that the investigative authorities failed to contact any next of kin before burying her in Fairbanks. She spoke to the lack of staffing and funding at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) and asked that the Council work harder to make changes that would help avoid more of these situations.

**Mayor Matherly** called for additional public comment in Council Chambers.

Andy Warwick, Fairbanks – A. Warwick spoke against Resolution No. 5021, adding that the Department of Labor (DOL) had recently published a study that indicated only 30% of young people raised in Fairbanks remain in Alaska. He expressed the need to support the local mining industry and spoke to its positive impacts on the economy.

Barbara Schumann, Fairbanks – B. Schumann spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5021, adding her concerns for the trucks running on two-lane highways, road damage, and air quality issues. She suggested that an alternative route be established prior to starting the project, indicating that Kinross was rushing the process for profits at the expense of public safety.

Jomo Stewart, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) – J. Stewart asked the Council to delay Resolution No. 5021 until more information was available, adding that the Department of Transportation (DOT) was currently analyzing the project and would be able to answer some of the questions once that process was finished. He spoke to the various projects that were presented to the Fairbanks community and rejected and to how those projects have gone on to provide significant benefits to other communities where they were supported. He expressed fear that a rash decision on this issue could result in another one of those situations. He encouraged both sides to step back and find a way to work together more fruitfully.

**Mayor Matherly**, at the request of the Council, extended Citizens’ Comments.

Mike Prax, Fairbanks – M. Prax spoke against Resolution No. 5021, adding that it was disingenuous to claim to not be against mining when the only project being opposed is one proposed by the mining industry. He noted that the Eielson Airforce Base (EAFB) had proposed a project that would increase traffic by 500-600 vehicles, and no one had said anything about it. He

encouraged everyone to work better together and support development, simplifying the topic to one about trucks on roads – something that happens every day.

Hearing no more requests for comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Citizens' Comments closed.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled Item 14(a), Memorandum to Approve the Appointment of 2022 Election Officials, from the Consent Agenda.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND the Agenda by moving Item 11(a), Resolution No. 5021, up to be heard prior to Mayor's Comments. No members objected.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection to the APPROVAL of the Agenda, as Amended, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda, as Amended, into the record.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

*Item 11(a) of New Business was heard next, as noted above.*

a) Resolution No. 5021 – A Resolution Expressing Opposition to the Ore Trucking Proposal for the Manh Choh Mine Project. Introduced by Council Member Therrien. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2022.

*The motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 5021 was made by Ms. Therrien and seconded by Mr. Clark at the July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.*

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5021 by adding a sixth whereas statement to read, "The FNSB's Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC) recently sent the attached letter to Mayor Bryce Ward addressing the air quality impacts and possible mitigation measure in the FNSB PM2.5 non-attainment area regarding the proposed Kinross Gold ore-hauling plans from the Manh Choh mine to Fort Knox Mine.

**Ms. Therrien** stated that the air pollution controls had not been addressed in the original resolution and due to the concerns expressed by APCC, she felt it was necessary to include them with the amendment.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 5021 BY ADDING A SIXTH WHEREAS STATEMENT TO READ, "THE FNSB'S AIR

POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION (APCC) RECENTLY SENT THE ATTACHED LETTER TO MAYOR BRYCE WARD ADDRESSING THE AIR QUALITY IMPACTS AND POSSIBLE MITIGATION MEASURE IN THE FNSB PM2.5 NON-ATTAINMENT AREA REGARDING THE PROPOSED KINROSS GOLD ORE-HAULING PLANS FROM THE MANH CHOH MINE TO FORT KNOX MINE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Therrien, Marney, Rogers, Cleworth

NAYS: None

Absent: *Vacant*, Seat F

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 5021, as Amended to the first Regular City Council Meeting in January 2023.

**Mr. Cleworth** agreed that having a work session with the DOT would be helpful, adding that he would also like to hear from some of the involved Native corporations. He clarified that regardless of the final vote, the resolution would only serve as an advisory opinion, noting that Kinross had the legal authority to use the highways.

**Mr. Marney** expressed interest in hearing a response from Kinross regarding the EPA claims.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 5021, AS AMENDED, TO THE FIRST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN JANUARY 2023, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Cleworth, Therrien, Rogers

NAYS: Marney

Absent: *Vacant*, Seat F

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

**Mayor Matherly** thanked Mr. Clark for his service and for his brutally honest opinion piece in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Clark and his hope that he might run for FNSB Assembly in the future. He introduced John Ringstad, noting that he would be recommending Mr. Ringstad for appointment to the City Council at the next regular meeting.

J. Ringstad stated he was honored to have been asked to serve on the City Council. He explained that while he had considered whether to take it on, he felt that it was the right thing to do. He added that he lives on Illinois Street and has been very involved in the community, including lobbying for the school district. He stated he spends a lot of time with his grandchildren but felt that he had adequate time to devote to the Council. J. Ringstad expressed hope that Council members would reach out to him with any questions, and he provided his phone number.

#### a) Special Reports

City Engineer Bob Pristash spoke about upcoming construction projects, including the 5th Avenue project, and stated he has been focused on keeping up with things so that construction can begin as soon as possible. He explained the Barnette Street construction project, a joint project with Golden Heart Utilities (GHU), to fix an issue with the sewer mains. He spoke to some of the smaller projects and repairs the Engineering Department had been involved with. He shared that the EPA had approved the Polaris Building demolition plan, adding that the annex would be torn down in the winter. He spoke to his desire to see some traffic calming devices, including speed humps, in future construction projects.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Engineer Pristash if he had been able to read through the proposed Fairbanks Downtown Plan. Engineer Pristash stated that he had read through it, and he hoped for another work session to discuss his findings with the Council.

**Mr. Marney** thanked Engineer Pristash for his work at the City.

**Mayor Matherly** reported that he had attended a new citizens ceremony at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center where they welcomed ten new U.S. citizens. He stated he had been impressed with their excitement and knowledge about the U.S., noting how hard they had worked to earn citizenship. He encouraged everyone to get involved in the local municipal elections.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Mr. Gibson** expressed his gratitude for everyone who showed up to give testimony.

**Mr. Marney** stated that he had enjoyed campaigning with Mr. Clark in 2020, adding that he would miss his wit, humor, and down-to-earth mentality. He stated that more people like Mr. Clark should be involved in local politics.

**Ms. Therrien** thanked everyone who came to speak about Resolution No. 5021, adding that there are many others who need to be a part of the conversation before a decision is made. She stated she had spoken to Mr. Clark and shared that, while they did not always agree, they were respectful and worked well together; she stated she would miss working with him.

**Ms. Rogers** expressed her gratitude for the good working relationships between Council members, adding that she would miss working with Mr. Clark. She spoke to comments made by J. Stewart, noting that he summed up the issue very well. She added that everyone has an idea of what is best for Fairbanks and that by working together they could come to a right solution. She clarified that the City Council is non-partisan and that politics should be left out of the comments.

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked everyone for providing testimony and thanked Mr. Gibson for moving the resolution up in the agenda. He shared his admiration for Mr. Clark and his enthusiasm, noting that some of his ideas were radical but well-intended. He stated he was reminded to listen to all of the voices and encourage the ideas of others as much as possible.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*Item (a) was addressed earlier in the meeting prior to Mayor's Comments and Report.*

- b) Ordinance No. 6215 – An Ordinance Amending the Fairbanks Police Department Incentive Bonus Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of August 8, 2022; a public hearing was held at that time.

*The motion to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6215 was made by Ms. Therrien and seconded by Mr. Marney at the August 8, 2022 Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.*

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6215 by substituting the amended, proposed version of Ordinance No. 6215.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked staff for taking the time to consider the Council's comments and for bringing an amended version of the ordinance forward.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6215, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Therrien, Rogers, Gibson

NAYS: None

Absent: *Vacant*, Seat F

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6215, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6218 – An Ordinance Amending the 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Third Time. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6218.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6218 by substituting the amended, proposed version of Ordinance No. 6218.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mayor Matherly** called for testimony and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke in favor of the ordinance and the amendment, noting that it was very forward-thinking to budget for future temporary hires before they are needed.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6218, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Cleworth, Marney, Gibson  
NAYS: None  
Absent: *Vacant*, Seat F  
**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6218, as Amended, ADOPTED.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5027 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for and Accept Funds from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for the Fairbanks Crisis Now Community Coordinator. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 5028 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Provide a Retention Bonus to FECC Dispatch Employees. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Ordinance No. 6219 – An Ordinance Amending the Public Safety Employees Association/City of Fairbanks Collective Bargaining Agreement to Add a Community Outreach Specialist Position. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Memorandum to Approve the Appointment of 2022 Election Officials

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to APPROVE the Memorandum to Appoint 2022 Election Officials.

**Mr. Cleworth** noted that Meg Gaydosik's name was misspelled. Clerk Snider noted the error.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection on the motion to APPROVE the Memorandum to Appoint 2022 Election Officials, with the correction of the name misspelling, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

- b) Appointments to the Council Finance Committee

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA



- d) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*With no objection from the Council, Members' Comments and Committee Reports were combined.*

**Mr. Cleworth** asked about holding another work session to discuss the Fairbanks Downtown Plan. City Clerk Snider noted that there was not one scheduled and that there were no available work sessions slots on the calendar for some time. She added that a Special Finance Committee meeting could be scheduled for the purpose of discussing of a non-fiscal topic.

**Ms. Rogers** reported that she had attended meetings of the Reentry Coalition and Crisis Now, as well as the Fort Wainwright 9-1-1 ceremony. She went on to express her appreciation for the many people who shared their varied opinions during the meeting.

**Ms. Therrien** gave a land acknowledgment. She spoke about attending the recent FNSB Assembly meeting, adding that the resolution regarding the City was postponed as they ran out of time. She reported that she had also attend the Crisis Now meeting where she learned that the program is helping to divert a lot of FPD calls, adding that she had asked the coordinator to provide the Council with those numbers in the future. She spoke about the somber and pleasant 9-1-1 ceremony at Fort Wainwright she attended with Ms. Rogers. She clarified that she introduced Resolution No. 5021 due to safety and health concerns and clarified that she is pro-mining and development.

**Mr. Marney** thanked Fire Chief Raygor for the work he has done to increase staffing in his department. He added that he had attended a meeting with various stakeholders regarding the room rental tax allocation, noting that there had been a great deal of sharing ideas on how to move forward. He recognized Julie Jones with Explore Fairbanks for the amount of work she is able to accomplish with a small budget. He noted that Jomo Stewart expressed that the FEDC may have additional resources available to the City.

**Mr. Gibson** spoke to the FNSB ordinance regarding Board of Adjustment powers. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the Council had approved support for the ordinance during the last meeting, adding that while a formal resolution should have been presented, the official support stands. **Mr. Gibson** spoke to his experience in working with Mr. Clark and commented on Mr. Clark's ability to speak openly and freely, regardless of any fallout. He added his appreciation for Mr. Clark's common-sense approach to issues, adding that he will be missed.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked Mr. Marney for his work pulling together the various organizations involved with the room rental tax discussion.

## CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider offered to provide a summary to Ms. Therrien before the next Borough Assembly meeting of the actions the Council had taken regarding the Board of Adjustment issue. She went on to note the change in the number of City precincts, adding that workers at each precinct had been increased to accommodate the busier locations. She recognized Deputy Clerk Rochelle Rodak for her work on the Candidate Pamphlet and thanked the Council and other local governing bodies for passing an ordinance to authorize it.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mayor Matherly** called for a brief recess and left the meeting at 8:30 p.m. **Mr. Cleworth** presided as Mayor pro tempore. The Council reconvened in Executive Session following the brief recess.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy

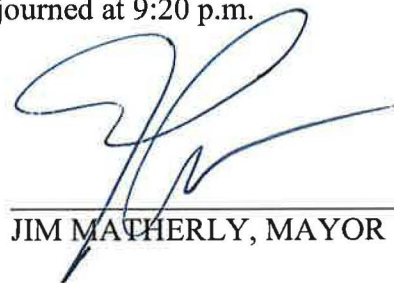
The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy. Direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.


**Mayor pro tem Cleworth** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mayor pro tem Cleworth** declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR